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Org. National Student Association

convinced he didn't have a chance of getting the Democratic Presidential nomination in Chicago this week. Others had worked for Governor Rockefeller and had already experienced defeat. Most seemed to believe they have no influence on the institutions controlling their lives, from the electoral system to the draft and their own schools. "What the hell are the come-clean-for-Gene kids supposed to do now?" asked one.

The Congress was not all politics. It also offered "touchy-feely" sensitivity training—an enterprise in which six strangers sit in a circle in a dimly lighted room and try to understand each other and to create a group solidarity using words and touch. Some students played a "Drug Bust Game," pretending they were the various parties in a drug arrest.

But the strongest feeling was that

students will be so discouraged they'll be groovy, red, raw meat to be organized." NEWSWEEK EDUCATION editor Peter Jansen, who covered the congress, reported that the disenchantment is spreading, that student leaders who were moderates earlier in the year are beginning to think the system does not work. "The radicals may be right," says Tomec Smith, president of Columbia's student council. He believes that unless the university makes basic reforms in the next month, and drops criminal charges against the 700 students arrested last spring, "it might be a good thing to bring it down... Just because an institution is there doesn't mean it should survive."

At its formal plenary sessions in Weber Hall Arena, Kansas State's dirt-floored "Cow Palace," NSA moved for the first time to directly enter the political arena.



NSA delegates voting in Kansas: Some red, raw meat to organize

A Mind-Blowing Affair

There they were convened in Manhattan, Kans., the 940 delegates to the annual Congress of the National Students Association, an organization that only a few years ago was as staid as the DAR and well-pleased, indeed, thank you, with the regular financial support it received from the CIA. No longer. At last week's Kansas congress, hundreds of undergraduates stood and cheered when a senior from the University of Hawaii borrowed a cigarette lighter and—hands trembling—burned his draft card. They passed a resolution condemning the "aggression of the U.S. Government against people of Vietnam," and they burned dollar bills in a put-down of middle-class values. Above all, they were angry.

"A lot of kids here are really discouraged," said aging 25-year-old Edward Schwartz, former NSA president. "They just need a little something radical." Many students had written for Sen. Eugene McCarthy, and they were

what happens at Chicago this week will determine what will happen on campus this fall. The Congress rang with radical rhetoric. "I find no more honorable thing to be in modern America than a criminal," said David Harris, former Stanford student-body president who is now appealing a three-year sentence for turning in his draft card. Tom Hayden, 28, founder of SDS and leader of the anti-convention demonstrations in Chicago, urged the students "to hook up with everyone with the crazy feeling that the whole face of this country has to be changed, and don't rely on any politician or any party." The delegates applauded when Hayden added that "there'll be more Columbias. No Presidential candidate will be safe speaking at any university in this country."

"After Chicago," says Jon Shapiro, an SDS member at Oberlin, where students are preparing for confrontations with the police by purchasing gas masks, "a lot more people will be willing to put their adds Carol Amioke, a junior at the University of Hawaii, "the McCarthy stu-

Delegates voted 284-24 to change their constitution to create a dual corporation, with one arm providing strictly campus-oriented programs to members while the other would lobby on five local and national issues each year.

Guilt: At one point in the proceedings, two dozen members of a "guerrilla theater" marched into the arena in chain-gang fashion, pretending to beat themselves to atone for their guilt as racists. "It hurts so good," they cried, climaxing the skit with a shout of "liberation" and the chant "organize, work, to survive—organize, work, to survive."

There were at least a few voices raised in protest against all this. At the end of the week an anonymous newsletter entitled the "NSA Laugh-In" had a final comment. "We all love the broad representation of viewpoints here," it said. "Radical, more radical, and most radical." But the majority of the students thought everything, from the touchy-feelies to the draft-card burning, added up to a pretty brunette from Manhattanville College. "This has been beautiful."